THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware that a Pakistani delegation led by Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Economic Affairs, visited Nepal recently in connection with the Fifth Session of the Pakistan-Nepal Joint Economic Commission, held in Kathmandu on March 29-30,2005.

Government of India is also aware of some press reports suggesting that military supplies from Pakistan to Nepal are under consideration. Government of Nepal is aware of our concerns in this regard. We are seized of the matter and are taking steps as appropriate.

Balance of power in the sub-continent

3133. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K.ANAND:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan being accorded the status of a major Non-Ally of USA has altered the balance of power in the sub-continent; and

(b) if so, what are its implications on Pakistan acquiring conventional weapon, defence preparedness and likely consequences in case of full fledged war with India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) With additional weapons and equipment being offered by USA to Pakistan due to grant of Major Non-NATO Ally status, there will be an upgradation in Pakistan's military capability. However, Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's national security.

American Sanctions

3134. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have apprised the US Government that India would not purchase any American arms unless the sanctions imposed on various Indian entries are withdrawn by the US; and

(b) if so, the details of the entries on which such US sanctions continue, and the US Government's response to India's request for withdrawal of US sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) US imposed sanctions on various Indian entities after the 1998 nuclear tests. Some of these sanctions have been removed but several organisations belonging to the Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and Defence Research and Development Organisation remain on the Entity List under which licenses are required from the Bureau of Industry and Security of the U.S. Department of Commerce for U.S. exports to these organizations. Government continues to press for the removal of such organisations from the Entity List.

US offer to supply nuclear technology to India

3135. DR. KARAN SINGH:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has offered to supply country's nuclear energy technology and F-16 mostly advanced system and civilian nuclear cooperation to India;

(b) whether US has also expressed its willingness to engage in matters related to nuclear as well as non-nuclear issues including space;

(c) if so, to what extent India has accepted US offer and by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) whether this US offer will not have any bearing on India's plan nuclear energy project schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) During the visit of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to New Delhi on March 16, 2005, discussions were held on the need for a positive US response to India's growing energy demands, including nuclear energy. On March 25,2005, a Senior Administration Official stated in Washington D.C. in the course of a background briefing that the United States would be willing to discuss civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. The India-US. Energy Dialogue